

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5194
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01454

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE WISCHNEWSKI VISIT TO GDR

REFS: (A) USBER 179 AND PREVIOUS
(B) BONN 1222 (EXDIS) (PARAGRAPH 7)
(C) BONN 302

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FRG HAS PUBLICLY CONFIRMED PRESS
LEAKS THAT IT IS TRYING TO ARRANGE FOR AN EARLY VISIT
BY MINISTER OF STATE WISCHNEWSKI TO THE GDR TO SEEK TO
PREVENT A DETERIORATION IN INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS. THE
FRG HAS TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT IT HAD HOPED FOR A MEET-
ING THIS WEEK, BUT THE GDR, ALTHOUGH NOT REACTING NEGA-
TIVELY, HAS NOT AGREED TO A DATE. IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION
WITH THE AMBASSADOR, WISCHNEWSKI SAID IT MIGHT BE
POSSIBLE TO SET A DATE FOR HIS VISIT AFTER THE JANUARY
27 MEETING OF THE SED POLITBURO. END SUMMARY

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1. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS PUBLICLY CONFIRMED ITS
EFFORTS TO ARRANGE A VISIT BY WISCHNEWSKI TO THE GDR TO
SEEK TO OVERCOME THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES IN INNER-
GERMAN RELATIONS. UNTIL NOW, HOWEVER, THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS SAID LITTLE MORE PUBLICLY THAN
THAT THE CHANCELLOR IS PREPARED TO SEND WISCHNEWSKI AT
ANY TIME IF IT WOULD HELP TO BRING ABOUT AN IMPROVEMENT

IN RELATIONS.

2. AT THE JANUARY 23 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FRG REP (VON BRAUNMUEHL) SAID THAT THE GDR REACTION TO SOUNDINGS ABOUT A VISIT WERE NOT NEGATIVE, BUT IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO SET A DATE. AT PRESENT THE FRG WAS NOT CERTAIN IT WOULD COME OFF AT ALL. HE SAID THE FRG HAD HOPED THAT THE VISIT COULD TAKE PLACE VERY SOON -- THIS WEEK. THIS HAD NOT PROVEN POSSIBLE. HE NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT INTENDED THAT WISCHNEWSKI SHOULD MEET WITH HONECKER. WISCHNEWSKI SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE THE RANK TO DO THAT. THE FRG WOULD LEAVE THE CHOICE OF WISCHNEWSKI'S INTERLOCUTOR TO THE GDR.

3. IN A CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBOFF ON JANUARY 24, CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL STERN SAID WISCHNEWSKI WOULD

PRESUMABLY NOT MEET WITH HONECKER, BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE WOULD NOT MEET WITH ANYONE AS FAR DOWN THE HIERARCHY AS DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NIER, WHO HAS BEEN FRG PERM REP GAUS' INTERLOCUTOR. POSSIBLE DISCUSSION PARTNERS FOR WISCHNEWSKI INCLUDED FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER OR PEOPLE IN THE GDR PARTY APPARATUS.

4. WHILE AT THE CHANCELLERY JANUARY 23, THE AMBASSADOR
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HAD A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH WISCHNEWSKI, DURING WHICH HE ASKED ABOUT THE TIMING OF HIS PROSPECTIVE TRIP TO THE GDR. WISCHNEWSKI SAID THAT NOTHING HAD BEEN FIXED FIRMLY WITH THE GDR AUTHORITIES, WHO EVIDENTLY NEEDED TIME TO CONSIDER THE MATTER. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT A POLITBURO MEETING IN EAST BERLIN JANUARY 27 PROBABLY WOULD REVIEW THE SITUATION AND THAT A DECISION MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING THEREAFTER WHICH WOULD PERMIT HIM TO GO SOMETIME DURING THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

5. WISCHNEWSKI INDICATED HIS BELIEF THAT THE SHARPNESS AND BITTERNESS OF THE RECENT EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE GDR OVER THE MANIFESTO AFFAIR RISKED GETTING OUT OF HAND AND ENDANGERING THE COURSE OF INNER-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THAT, THROUGH HIS TRIP AND PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH THE GDR LEADERS, HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO CALM THE SITUATION DOWN SO THAT PROGRESS COULD BE MADE ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES.
STOESSEL

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